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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/678,893 | 10/04/2000 | ATSUSHI KAKIMOTO | 35.C14845 | 7041 |

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| EXAMINER |
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JACOBS, LASHONDA T

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2157

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/678,893 | KAKIMOTO, ATSUSHI | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | LaShonda T. Jacobs | 2157 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on September 18, 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,7,9-12,15,17-20,23 and 25-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,7,9-12,15,17-20,23 and 25-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This is a Final Office Action in response to Applicant's RCE Amendment on filed on September 18, 2006. Claims 1-4, 9, 17, 18, 25, 27, 29 and 31-36 have been amended. Applicant newly adds claims 37-39. Claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20, 23 and 25-36 are present for further examination. Also claims 37-39 are presented for examination.

The Amendments made to the specification filed September 28, 2005 and September 18, 2006 will not be entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims **1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20, 23 and 25-39** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicant's specification does not show support for a determination means for determining which information processing apparatus manages the second shared device selected by said selection means.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20, 23 and 25-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Urevig et al (hereinafter, "Urevig", U.S. Pat. No. 6,154,787) in view of Jaffe (U.S. Pat. No. 6,466,973).

As per claims 1, 9 and 17, Urevig discloses information processing apparatus, information processing method and a computer readable memory comprising:

- reception means for receiving, information of the second shared device selected by said selection means the other information processing apparatus determined by said determination means, the received information including information of in the second shared device comprising an updated status and a connected condition (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 26-44);
- recognition means for recognizing whether at least one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received by said reception means(col. 6, lines 26-44 and col. 9, lines 32-41);
- renewal means for updating the information on a status or connected condition of the second shared used in accordance with a recognition result made by said recognition means (col. 6, lines 26-44 and lines 53-59); and

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- display means for displaying the information on the status or the connected condition of the first shared device and the second shared device updated by said renewal means and the information of the first shared device on a same screen of said display means (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 39-44); and
- wherein the displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on a third shared device which is managed by said information processing apparatus but not selected by said selection means is not updated (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 39-44).

However, Urevig does not explicitly disclose:

- selection means for selecting a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus; and
- determination means for determining which information processing apparatus manages the second shared device selected by said selection means.

Jaffe a method and system for managing storage devices over a network comprising:

- selection means for selecting a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus (col. 6, lines 62-67, col. 7, lines 1-11 and col. 9, lines 16-45); and
- determination means for determining which information processing apparatus manages the second shared device selected by said selection means (col. 6, lines 62-67, col. 7, lines 1-11 and col. 9, lines 16-45).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Urevig by incorporating a management object interface to manage

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and monitor shared devices on network thereby providing communication and display information of the devices in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claims **2**, **10** and **18**, Urevig discloses:

- wherein said reception means includes first reception control means for designating a shared device satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device (col. 6, lines 26-44 and col. 9, lines 32-41).

As per claims **3**, **11** and **19**, Urevig discloses:

- wherein said reception means includes second reception control means for detecting a log-on operation of another information processing apparatus to the network system and receiving the information of the shared devices managed by the other information processing apparatus (col. 9, lines 32-41).

As per claims **4**, **12** and **20**, Urevig discloses:

- wherein said reception means is adapted, at a log-on operation to the network system, to automatically receive the information of the plurality of shared devices present on the network system (col. 9, lines 32-41).

As per claims **7**, **15** and **23**, Urevig discloses:

- wherein said renewal means is adapted, in response to the detection of a log-off operation of another information processing apparatus from the network system, to invalidate the information of the shared devices managed by the other information processing apparatus (col. 9, lines 32-41).

As per claims **25**, **27** and **29**, Urevig discloses information processing apparatus comprising:

- obtaining means for obtaining information, information on a status or connected condition of the second shared device selected by said selection means from the other information processing apparatus determined by said determination means (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 26-44);
- recognition means for recognizing whether at least one of the first and second shared device has been updated regarding its status or connected condition, in accordance with the information obtained by said obtaining means (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 39-44); and
- display means for displaying, on a display of said information processing apparatus, the information on the or status or the connected condition of the second shared device, and information on a and/or status or a connected condition of the first shared device (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 39-44); and
- wherein the displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on a third shared device which is managed by said information processing apparatus but not selected by said selection means is not updated.

However, Urevig does not explicitly disclose:

- selection means for selecting a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus; and
- determination means for determining which information processing apparatus manages the second shared device selected by said selection means.

Jaffe a method and system for managing storage devices over a network comprising:

- selection means for selecting a group comprising a plurality of devices including the first shared device and a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus (col. 6, lines 62-67, col. 7, lines 1-11 and col. 9, lines 16-45); and
- determination means for determining which information processing apparatus manages the second shared device selected by said selection means (col. 6, lines 62-67, col. 7, lines 1-11 and col. 9, lines 16-45).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Urevig by incorporating a management object interface to manage and monitor shared devices on network thereby providing communication and display information of the devices in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claims **26, 28 and 30**, Urevig discloses:

- wherein said display means displays on the display of the information processing apparatus information on the status or the connected condition by icon changes (col. 5, lines 66-67 and col. 6, lines 1-9).

As per claims **31, 33 and 35**, Urevig discloses an information processing apparatus that manages a first device, comprising:

- obtaining means for obtaining first device information on the first device from the first device, and second device information on the second device information on the second device designated by said designation means from the other information processing apparatus, determined by said determination means (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 26-44); and

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- display means for displaying a status or a connected condition of the first and second devices based on the first device information and the second device information obtained by said obtaining means (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 39-44);
- wherein the displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on a third shared device which is managed by said information processing apparatus but not selected by said selection means is not updated.

However, Urevig does not explicitly disclose:

- designation means for designating a second device managed by another information processing apparatus.

Jaffe a method and system for managing storage devices over a network comprising:

- designation means for designating a second device managed by another information processing apparatus (col. 6, lines 62-67, col. 7, lines 1-11 and col. 9, lines 16-45); and
- determination means for determining which information processing apparatus manages the second shared device selected by said selection means (col. 6, lines 62-67, col. 7, lines 1-11 and col. 9, lines 16-45).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Urevig by incorporating a management object interface to manage and monitor shared devices on network thereby providing communication and display information of the devices in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claims **32**, **34** and **36**, Urevig further discloses:

- storage means for storing the first and second device information obtained by said obtaining means (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 26-44); and

- wherein said display means displays the status or the connected condition of the first and second devices based on the first device information and the second device information specified by said specifying means (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 39-44).

However, Urevig does not explicitly disclose:

- specifying means for, when said designation means designates the second device, specifying the first and second device information from among a plurality of pieces of device information stored in said storage means.

Jaffe a method and system for managing storage devices over a network comprising:

- specifying means for, when said designation means designates the group, specifying the first and second device information corresponding to the attribute of the designated group from among a plurality of pieces of device information stored in said storage means (col. 6, lines 62-67, col. 7, lines 1-11 and col. 9, lines 16-45).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Urevig by incorporating a management object interface to manage and monitor shared devices on network thereby providing communication and display information of the devices in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claims 37, 38 and 39, Urevig discloses information processing apparatus, information processing method and a computer readable memory comprising:

- reception means for receiving, information of the third device selected by said selection means from the other information processing apparatus determined by said determination means (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 26-44); and

- display means for displaying the information of the third device received by said reception means and information of the first and second devices managed by said information processing apparatus such that the information of the second device and the information of the first device is displayed in different conditions (col. 5, lines 61-65 and col. 6, lines 39-44).

However, Urevig does not explicitly disclose:

- selection means for selecting a third device managed by another information processing apparatus; and
- determination means for determining which information processing apparatus manages the third device selected by said selection means.

Jaffe a method and system for managing storage devices over a network comprising:

- selection means for selecting a third device managed by another information processing apparatus (col. 6, lines 62-67, col. 7, lines 1-11 and col. 9, lines 16-45); and
- determination means for determining which information processing apparatus manages the third device selected by said selection means.
- (col. 6, lines 62-67, col. 7, lines 1-11 and col. 9, lines 16-45).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Urevig by incorporating a management object interface to manage and monitor shared devices on network thereby providing communication and display information of the devices in a timely and efficient manner.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20, 23 and 25-39 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LaShonda T. Jacobs whose telephone number is 571-272-4004. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M..


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LaShonda T Jacobs
Examiner
Art Unit 2157

ltj
December 3, 2006


LA SHONDA T JACOBS
PATENT EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2157